

October 18, 2013

Weekly Views

Doctoral student Danielle Martines from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) in connection with research she is conducting within Indiana Department of Correction facilities. The title of the research project is "Understanding Violence: Personality Traits and Characteristics of Violent Offenders."

The Rockville Correctional Facility (RCF) Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) participants delivered the final garden harvest to the House of Hope in Brazil, IN. Scott Summers from the House of Hope visited the facility to express his gratitude to the PLUS participants and the facility for the

hard work and dedication needed to prepare and maintain the PLUS garden. The efforts of the RCF PLUS unit garnered over 3,000 pounds of fresh produce. (photo right)

The Indiana Women's Prison held its first baby shower in the facility's recently renovated chapel. The baby shower included approximately 30 mothers and 12 volunteers. The baby shower is a quarterly event. Presently the oldest baby is Gabriella who was born March 15, 2013. The babies don't attend the shower; they stay in the Wee One's Nursery with the nannies. IWP presently has five babies and their mothers are very thankful to have this opportunity to be parents.



The Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) Employee Appreciation Committee (EAC) made a big impression on Superintendent Richard Brown and executive staff during the first ever WVCF Fall Festival. The fun-filled fundraising event included a pie throwing contest. Superintendent Brown also took a turn in the dunking booth, making a big splash to raise funds for the EAC. Committee Chairperson Katie Fischer said over \$400 was raised to support staff appreciation activities. "We had great carnival food and lots of fun contests. Many thanks to our Administrative team and Custody Supervisors for being such good sports!" (see photo left)



Putnamville Correctional Facility (ISF) and Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) staff, along with Indiana Veterans Education and Transition (INVET) Unit residents, coordinated their efforts to brighten the day of a local child stricken with cancer. ISF Program Coordinator Kelli Searing met four-year-old Parker this summer. Parker is currently fighting a cancerous tumor on her kidney, and this battle against renal cancer is not her first fight. Due to a rare disorder, one of Parker's legs

was amputated after her birth. After meeting such a brave little girl, Searing, familiar with the IREF INVET dollhouse program, contacted the facility and related Parker's story to Program Coordinator Jacinda Estle-Cronau. Upon hearing about Parker, the residents decided they would build a dollhouse worthy of a beautiful princess. Resident David Snyder (pictured right) went to work on the project, combining three partial houses to make a large Princess Parker Mansion. When Parker's parents reported she was not feeling well, Resident Snyder spent several sleepless nights working on the house to fast-forward the project. Once complete, Ms. Searing picked up the dollhouse and delivered it to the Parker's home where her father helped load it into the garage. Because Parker was not feeling well that day and could not receive visitors, Searing did not get the opportunity to witness the excitement, but her parents reported that Princess Parker LOVES the dollhouse. She said, "I love it so much! What a great surprise!"



Westville Correctional Facility hosted its second annual Catholic Retreat. 134 volunteers gathered for a day of worship that included large and small group activities, then ended the day with mass. This mass held a special meaning for the participants, as the offenders were allowed to accept communion. The day of worship was made possible because various departments worked together to provide goods and services. The volunteers lunched with the offenders in the facility dining hall, desserts were furnished by the facility's Culinary Arts program and music was provided by the facility's spiritual ensemble.

A "Blessing of the Dogs" ceremony was conducted by Deacon John Etter at the Pendleton Correctional Facility Chapel to bless the Indiana Canine Assistant Network (ICAN) service dogs that are being trained by offender handlers at the facility. The ceremony is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures. (photo left)



The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a Christian concert at the facility. Warriors for Christ Ministries along with Pastor Trent Obrien and Christian Rapper David Long performed for 111 students who volunteered to attend the program. The students actively participated in the concert by singing and giving praise. The event also included a cookout that the treatment department prepared.

An appreciation luncheon was held for the volunteers of the Indiana State Prison. Without the volunteers, many of the religious programming would not be available to the offender population. Speakers at the program stated that volunteers show the offenders they can have a better life and their life has value. IDOC Commissioner Bruce Lemmon thanked the volunteers for their service.